

Ireland, and depended on France to effect it.
To recover
England reliance would have to be placed on
Irish arms, and
James could not afford to alienate his last
supporters.

Jacobites in general seem to have thought
this reconquest
of England by Irish forces a possibility.
Macaulay fre-
quently quotes a manuscript Jacobite
narrative of the war
in Ireland, called *A Light to the Blind*. Since
then the
whole work, with a collection of illustrative
documents, has
been printed by J. T. Gilbert (in 1892) under
the title of
*A Jacobite Narrative of the War in Ireland,
1688-91*.¹ The
author is said to be Nicholas Plunket, a
Catholic lawyer.
He makes Tyrconnel his hero. The Duke's
death, he
thought, 'pulled down a mighty edifice,
videlicet, a con-
siderable Catholic nation, for there was no
other subject
left able to support the national cause/'²
Plunket's view is
that the resources James possessed in Ireland
were ample
for the recovery of England. If James and his
supporters
were wise, consistent, diligent, and united,
they might re-
cover England by such means as were
available in Ireland
at the King's arrival. The army numbered at
least sixty
thousand men, a considerable proportion of
them being
veterans. Constant exercise would in two
months make
the rest skilful enough in the use of arms. The
cavalry and
dragoons were not to be contemned, because

